

sheriff (reserves) and on Youngstown City Council for the 1st Ward. In early years, he had been employed at Packard Electric, Ohio Fast Freight, and Stallworth Real Estate and Construction Co. Inc. Artis was also very instrumental in getting the Covelli Center built and opening up Federal Street to through traffic.

In addition to his many jobs and positions, Artis found time to volunteer on many boards and other organizations important to Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley.

He leaves to carry on his legacy and cherish his beloved memories, his wife, the former Annie L. Spooner, whom he married March 15, 1962; four children, Artis Gillam Jr. of Cleveland, Arnold Gillam Sr., Adrienne (Rodney) Davis and Andrea Gillam, all of Youngstown; seven grandchildren, Tamica Gillam, Artis Gillam III, Arnold (Hannah) Gillam Jr., Rodney Davis, Jr., Alexis Gillam, Andre (Shalena) Davis and Denzel Davis; and 15 great-grandchildren, Andre Davis Jr., Amire, Amira and Alena Davis, Armani Johnson, Talaya and Reggie Dunlap, Artis IV, Nariah, Gianna, Markez, Amiah, Kayel, Amari, and Kenna Gillam. He also leaves six sisters-in-law, Juanell (Sylvester Sr.) Patton, Janice Burroughs, Joyce Dean-El, Linda Jenkins, Brenda Boudreaux and Margie Ann Leonard; and a host of nieces, nephews, other family and friends.

Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by three brothers, Homer Jenkins, L. V. Jenkins and Douglas Gillam; his sister-in-law, Shirley Gillam; his brother-in-law, Charles Spooner; and his favorite uncle, Ruben Edmondson.

There is no doubt that Councilman Gillam was a giant in Youngstown and dedicated his life to our community. I was very proud to represent the great people of Youngstown alongside Mr. Gillam. My deepest sympathies go out to Mr. Gillam's family and to all whose lives he touched.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARRET GRAVES

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I was notified that I was exposed to COVID-19 and am following quarantine guidelines set by the CDC. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 240 (HR 8900); and YEA on Roll Call No. 241 (HR 5758).

REMEMBERING REVEREND JAMES L. NETTERS

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember a giant of the Memphis community—the Reverend James LaVirt Netters Sr., who passed on Sunday at the age of 93. Reverend Netters served more than 60 years as the senior pastor of Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Westwood. Reverend Netters graduated from the historic Booker T. Washington

High School, which produced other noted alumni such as civil rights activist Maxine Smith and civil rights attorney Judge Russell B. Sugarmon Jr. He went on to graduate from LeMoyne-Owen College, a historically Black college. He was a Memphis City Schools teacher when he responded to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s clarion call for jobs and freedom and attended the 1963 March on Washington. He returned to Memphis galvanized to address integrated public accommodations, getting arrested, like Rosa Parks, and encouraging other ministers to join him, in sitting in whites-only sections of buses in demonstrations that resulted in desegregating the system. Determined to make a difference in the lives of Black people, he turned to electoral politics. He was one of the first three Black City Council members sworn into office in January 1968, along with the Reverend J.O. Patterson and Fred Davis, and worked tirelessly behind the scenes during the Sanitation Workers Strike that led to the assassination of Dr. King that year. After his Council service, he was an administrative assistant and served as a community liaison for Memphis Mayor Wyeth Chandler from 1972 to 1975. He later received a master's degree and a doctorate in Divinity from Memphis Theological Seminary, where a faculty chair in Rhetoric and African American Studies is named in his honor. Reverend Netters was a stand-up pastor whose friendships and influence knew no bounds. He was the longest-serving pastor of a single church in the City of Memphis and was respected for his moral authority. Other pastors and ministers held him in high regard for his leadership, activism, commitment to ministry and the community, and his focus-driven life. Noted for his work outside the church as well, Reverend Netters served on the board and as chairman of the Memphis Light, Gas and Water Division. MLG&W's business center building is named in his honor, as is a portion of Third Street—James L. Netters Parkway. An open-minded leader and a man of impeccable character, he respected all people; there was not a prejudiced bone in his body. He reached across all religious, gender, political and racial groups as a respected bridge that brought all of Memphis together. I appreciated his friendship and his solid support, especially during my early runs for Congress. I was honored to take him as my guest to the annual Congressional Prayer Breakfast where he was pleased to meet with President Obama. I express my profound condolences to his family and to the Mount Vernon Baptist Church community he served so well. He led an exemplary life and will be missed.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JOSEPH "JOE" ALEXANDER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Joseph "Joe" Alexander, a pivotal Northern Virginia leader who passed away peacefully at home on August 30, 2020 at the age of 90.

Joe Alexander was born in Pittsburgh, PA on December 21, 1929 to Celia and Milton Alexander. When Joe was young, the family

relocated to Northern Virginia where Joe would spend his life. In 1956, Joe married the love of his life Davina, and together they raised their two daughters Cathy and Cheri.

Joe dedicated his life to bettering the community in which he grew up by serving others. He was a veteran of the Korean War and served in the Air Force where he was promoted to the rank of 1st Lieutenant. Afterwards, Joe returned to the Franconia section of Fairfax County where he owned and managed Franconia Hardware. He was urged by other local business owners to run for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and began his first term in office in 1964. He served a total of 32 years, finally stepping down when his 8th term ended in December 1995.

During Joe's years of service on the Board, he was affectionately known as "Pothole Joe" because no level of constituent service was too small for him to personally address. He shaped the transformation of his district from one of un-regulated gravel pits to an area known for its vibrant planned communities.

Joe believed that an integrated transportation network was critical to the continued growth and prosperity of the region. In 1964, Joe was a founding member of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission on which he served for 25 years representing our region in mass transit systems such as WMATA, VRE, and the Fairfax Connector. Working with others he was instrumental in transforming four separate privately owned bus companies into the Metrobus system. In recognition of his immeasurable contributions to public transportation, the Joe Alexander Transportation Center (commonly referred to as the Franconia-Springfield Metro Station) was named after him, and in 2008 after serving as its Chair, Joe was inducted into the American Public Transportation Association Hall of Fame.

Public service was at the core of who Joe was. In addition to his contributions in transportation and community planning, Joe was a volunteer with the Franconia Volunteer Fire Department. His love for his community and its history led him to donate his time as a volunteer and a Board Member with the Franconia Museum. Joe also had an adventurous spirit—he loved to travel, enjoyed good food and wine, and football. But above all Joe was a dedicated and loving husband, father and grandfather.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Joseph Alexander. His leadership and commitment to public service helped lay the foundation for the county and he will be missed by all who knew him. I also extend my deepest condolences to his wife of 64 years, Davina; his daughters, Cathy Stevens (Ed) and Cheri Roth (Rich); and granddaughter Stephanie Roth. May his memory be a blessing.

COMMISSIONER MARY HODGE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary Hodge, a former Colorado State House Representative, State Senator, current Adams County Commissioner, and a great Coloradan.